

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLDTM COLLEGE DICTIONARY

THIRD EDITION

*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor and friend*

Webster's New World™ College Dictionary, Third Edition
Copyright © 1997, 1996, 1994, 1991, 1988 by Simon & Schuster, Inc.

This edition is a major revision of *Webster's New World Dictionary®*,
Second College Edition, copyright © 1986, 1984, 1982, 1980, 1979,
1978, 1976, 1974, 1972, 1970 by Simon & Schuster, Inc.

All rights reserved
including the right of reproduction
in whole or in part in any form

Macmillan General Reference
A Simon & Schuster Macmillan Company
1633 Broadway
New York, NY 10019-6785

A Webster's New World™ Book

MACMILLAN is a registered trademark of Macmillan, Inc.
WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY is a
registered trademark of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Dictionary Editorial Offices:
New World Dictionaries
850 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's New World college dictionary / Victoria Neufeldt, editor in
chief, David B. Guralnik, editor in chief emeritus. — 3rd ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-02-861673-1 (thumb-indexed). — ISBN 0-02-861675-8 (plain).

— ISBN 0-02-861674-X (leatherkraft)

1. English language — Dictionaries. I. Neufeldt, Victoria.

II. Guralnik, David Bernard, 1920—

PE1628.W5629 1997

423—dc21

96-44362
CIP

Database service and principal typesetting by Lexi-Comp, Inc., Hudson, Ohio.
Manufactured in the United States of America

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 97 98 99 00 01 02

(prob. < It *accordare*, to be in tune; see ACCORD) + -ion as in ORCHESTRION] a musical instrument w. keys, metal reeds, and a bellows; it is played by alternately pulling out and pressing together the bellows to force air through the reeds, which are opened by fingering the keys — *adj.* having folds, or folding, like the bellows of an accordion / *accordion pleats* / — *ac-cord-i-on-ist* *n.*



ACCORDION

ac-cost (ə kōst', -kăst') *vt.* [Fr *accoster* < It *accostare*, to bring side by side < VL **accostare* < L *ad-*, to + *costa*, rib, side] 1 to approach and speak to; greet first, before being greeted, esp. in an intrusive way 2 to solicit for sexual purposes: said of a prostitute, etc.

ac-couche-ment (ə kōsh'mənt; Fr ə kōsh mən') *n.* [Fr < *accoucher*, put to bed, give birth < OFr *accoucher*, lie down < L *ad-*, to + *collocare*: see COUCH] confinement for giving birth to a child; childbirth

ac-cou-queur (ə kōō shūr') *n.* [Fr: see prec.] a specially trained person who attends childbirth cases; male midwife or obstetrician

ac-cou-queuse (ə kōō shūz') *n.* [Fr, fem. of prec.] a midwife or female obstetrician

ac-count (ə kount') *vt.* [ME *acounten* < OFr *aconter* < *a-*, to + *conter*, to tell < *computare* < L *computare*: see COMPUTE] to consider or judge to be; deem; value — *vi.* 1 to furnish a reckoning (to someone) of money received and paid out 2 to make satisfactory amends (for) / he will account for his crime / 3 to give satisfactory reasons or an explanation (for) / can he account for his actions? / 4 to be the cause, agent, or source of: with for 5 to do away with as by killing: with for / he accounted for five of the enemy / — *n.* 1 a counting; calculation 2 [often pl.] a record of the financial data pertaining to a specific asset, liability, income item, expense item, or net-worth item 3 BANK ACCOUNT 4 a) a record of the financial transactions relating to a specific person, property, business, etc. b) CHARGE ACCOUNT c) a business or firm that is a customer or client, esp. on a regular, credit basis / one of our best accounts / 5 worth; importance / a thing of small account / 6 an explanation 7 a report; description; story — *call to account* 1 to demand an explanation of 2 to reprimand — *give a good account of oneself* to acquit oneself creditably — *on account* 1 on a charge account; on the installment plan 2 as partial payment — *on someone's account* for someone's sake — *on account of* 1 because of 2 for (someone's) sake — *on no account* not under any circumstances — *take account of* 1 to take into consideration; allow for 2 to take notice of; note — *take into account* to take into consideration — *turn to account* to get use or profit from

ac-count-able (ə kount'ə bəl) *adj.* 1 obliged to account for one's acts; responsible 2 capable of being accounted for; explainable — *SYN.* RESPONSIBLE — *ac-count-abil-ity* (-bil'ə tē) or *ac-count-able-ness* *n.* — *ac-count-ably* *adv.*

ac-count-ancy (ə kount'ə n sē) *n.* the keeping or inspecting of commercial accounts; work of an accountant

ac-count-ant (ə kount'ə nt) *n.* a person whose work is to inspect, keep, or adjust accounts: see CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

account book a book in which business accounts are set down

account current a record of business transactions that shows the total amount of money owed as of the date of the summarizing statement

account executive an executive in an advertising agency, stockbrokerage, etc. who handles the accounts of, and maintains direct contact with, one or more established clients and seeks new clients

ac-count-ing (ə kount'ing) *n.* 1 the principles or practice of systematically recording, presenting, and interpreting financial accounts 2 a statement of debits and credits 3 a settling or balancing of accounts

account payable *pl.* **accounts payable** the amount owed by a business to a creditor, usually for goods or services

account receivable *pl.* **accounts receivable** the amount owed to a business by a debtor, usually for goods or services

ac-couple-ment (ə kup'ə l mēnt) *n.* [Fr < *accoupler*, to couple up < OFr *accoupler* < ML *accopulare* < L *ad-*, to + *copulare*, to COUPLE] 1 Archit. the placing of columns in pairs close together 2 Carpentry a brace or tie of timber

ac-cou-ter or **ac-cou-ter** (ə kōō t'ər) *vt.* -tered or -tred (-ərd), -ter-ing or -tring (ə kōō t'ər in-, -kōō t'ring) [Fr *accouter*, earlier *accouterer*; prob. < *a-*, to + OFr *costure* < VL **consutura*, seam, sewing < L *consuere*, to sew < *con-*, together + *suerē*, SEW] to outfit; equip, esp. for military service

ac-cou-ter-ment or **ac-cou-ter-ment** (ə kōō t'ər mēnt, -kōō t'ə-ə) *n.* 1 an accoutering or being accoutered 2 [pl.] a) personal outfit; clothes; dress b) a soldier's equipment except clothes and weapons

Ac-cra (ə kra') capital of Ghana: seaport on the Gulf of Guinea: pop. 954,000

ac-credit (ə kred'it) *vt.* [Fr *accréditer*, to give credit or authority < *a-*, to + *crédit*, CREDIT] 1 to bring into credit or favor 2 to authorize; give credentials to / an accredited representative / 3 to believe in; take as true 4 to certify as meeting certain set standards / colleges may be accredited by regional associations / 5 to attribute; credit / an action accredited to him / — *SYN.* AUTHORIZE — *ac-cred-i-ta-tion* (-ə tē'ā-shən) *n.*

ac-crete (ə krēt') *vi.* -cret'ed, -cret'ing [< L *accretus*, pp. of

accrecere: see *ac-* to grow by being added to 2 to grow together; adhere - *co* cause to adhere or unite (to) — *adj.* Bot. grown together

ac-cre-tion (ə krē'shən) *n.* [L *accretio* < *accrecere*, to increase < *ad-*, to + *crescere*, to grow: see CRESCENT] 1 growth in size, esp. by addition or accumulation 2 a growing together of parts normally separate 3 accumulated matter / the accretion of earth on the shore / 4 a part added separately; addition 5 a whole resulting from such growth or accumulation 6 Law the addition of soil to land by gradual, natural deposits — *ac-cre-tive* (-krēt'iv) *adj.*

ac-crual (ə krōō'əl) *n.* 1 the act or process of accruing 2 the amount that accrues Also *ac-crue-ment*

ac-crue (ə krōō') *vi.* -crued', -cru'ing [ME *accreuen* < OFr *acreu*, pp. of *acrostre*, increase < L *accrecere*: see ACCRETION] 1 to come as a natural growth, advantage, or right (to) 2 to be added periodically as an increase: said esp. of interest on money — *vt.* to accumulate periodically as an increase / savings accounts accrue interest /

acct 1 account 2 accountant

ac-cul-tur-ate (ə kul'char āt') *vi.*, *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing [back-form. < fol.] to undergo, or alter by, acculturation

ac-cul-tura-tion (ə kul'char ā'shən) *n.* [AC- + CULTUR(E) + -ATION] Sociology 1 the process of conditioning a child to the patterns or customs of a culture 2 the process of becoming adapted to a new or different culture with more or less advanced patterns 3 the mutual influence of different cultures in close contact — *ac-cul-tura-tive* *adj.*

ac-cum-bent (ə kum'bənt) *adj.* [L *accumbens*, pp. of *accumbere* < *ad-*, to + *cubare*, to recline] 1 lying down 2 Bot. lying against some other part: said esp. of certain cotyledons — *ac-cum-bency* *n.*

ac-cu-mu-late (ə kyōōm'yōō lāt', -yā-) *vt.*, *vi.* -lat'ed, -lat'ing [< L *accumulatus*, pp. of *accumulare* < *ad-*, to + *cumulare*, to heap: see CUMULUS] to pile up, collect, or gather together, esp. over a period of time — *ac-cu-mu-lable* (-lə bəl) *adj.*

ac-cu-mu-la-tion (ə kyōōm'yōō lā'shən, -yā-) *n.* 1 an accumulating or being accumulated; collection 2 accumulated or collected material; heap 3 the addition to capital of interest or profits

ac-cu-mu-la-tive (ə kyōōm'yōō lāt'iv, -lat'iv; -yā-) *adj.* 1 resulting from accumulation; cumulative 2 tending to accumulate 3 acquisitive — *ac-cu-mu-la-tive-ly* *adv.*

ac-cu-mu-la-tor (ə kyōōm'yōō lāt'ər, -yā-) *n.* 1 a person or thing that accumulates 2 a) an apparatus that collects and stores energy b) [Brit.] STORAGE BATTERY 3 a type of shock absorber 4 a device or circuit unit performing one or more of the operations of storage, arithmetic, and logic, as in a computer, cash register, etc.

ac-cu-ra-cy (ə kyōōr ə sē, -yār-) *n.* the quality or state of being accurate or exact; precision; exactness

ac-cu-rate (ə kyōōr it, -yār-) *adj.* [L *accuratus*, pp. of *accurare* < *ad-*, to + *curare*, to take care < *cura*, care: see CURE] 1 careful and exact 2 free from mistakes or errors; precise 3 adhering closely to a standard / an accurate thermometer / — *SYN.* CORRECT — *ac-cu-rately* *adv.* — *ac-cu-rate-ness* *n.*

ac-curs-ed (ə kur'sid, -kurst') *adj.* [ME *acursed*, pp. of *acursen*, pronounce a curse upon, excommunicate < *a-*, intens. + *cursien*: see CURSE] 1 under a curse; ill-fated 2 deserving to be cursed; damnable; abominable Also *ac-curst* (ə kurst') — *ac-curs-ed-ly* *adv.* — *ac-curs-ed-ness* *n.*

ac-cu-sal (ə kyōōz'əl) *n.* ACCUSATION

ac-cu-sa-tion (ə kyōōz ā'shən, -yā-) *n.* 1 an accusing or being

accused 2 the crime or wrong of which a person is accused

ac-cu-sa-ti-val (ə kyōōz ā t'iv) *adj.* of the accusative case

ac-cu-sa-tive (ə kyōōz ā tiv) *adj.* [ME *acusatif* < L *accusativus* < *accusare*, ACCUSE: L mistransl. (by PRISCIAN) of Gr grammatical term correctly rendered *causativus*, causative: the goal or end point of an action was orig. considered to be its cause] 1 Gram. designating, of, or in the case of the direct object of a finite verb: also sometimes used of the objective case in English 2 accusatory — *n.* 1 the accusative case 2 a word in this case — *ac-cu-sa-tive-ly* *adv.*

ac-cu-sa-to-ri-al (ə kyōōz ā tōr'ē ə l) *adj.* [L *accusatorius*: see ACCUSE] of, or in the manner of, an accuser

ac-cu-sa-to-ry (ə kyōōz ā tōr'ē) *adj.* making or containing an accusation; accusing

ac-cuse (ə kyōōz') *vt.* *ac-cused'*, *ac-cus'ing* [ME *acusen* < OFr *acusen* < L *accusare*, to call to account < *ad-*, to + *causa*, CAUSE] 1 to find at fault; blame 2 to bring formal charges against (of doing wrong, breaking the law, etc.) — *the accused* Law the person or persons formally charged with commission of a crime — *ac-cus'er* *n.* — *ac-cus-ing-ly* *adv.*

SYN. — *accuse* means to find fault for offenses of varying gravity / to accuse someone of murder, carelessness, etc.; to charge is to make an accusation of a legal or formal nature / the police charged her with jaywalking; indict describes the action of a grand jury and means to find a case against a person and order the person to be brought to trial; arraign means to call a person before a court to be informed of pending charges; impeach means to charge a public official with misconduct in office, but in nonlegal usage means to challenge a person's motives, etc.

ac-cus-tom (ə kus'təm) *vt.* [ME *accostumen* < OFr *accostumer* < *a-*, to + *costume*: see CUSTOM] to make familiar by custom, habit, or use; habituate (to)

ac-cus-tomed (ə kus'təmd) *adj.* 1 customary; usual; characteristic

at, āte, cār; ten, ēve; is, ice; gō, hōrn, look, tōōl; oil, out; up, far; a for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in focus; ' as in Latin (lat'n); chin; she; zh as in azure (āzh'ər); thin, the; ŋ as in ring (rīŋ) In etymologies: * = unattested; < = derived from; > = from which

See inside front and back covers

decurion / defamation

360

—*vt.* -pled, -pling to make te. 25 as much or as many; multiply by ten

de-cu-ri-on (dē kyoo'rē an) *n.* [ME *decurioun* < L *decurio* < *decuria*, company of ten men < *decem*, TEN] *Rom. History* 1 an officer having charge of ten men 2 a member of a municipal or colonial senate

de-cur-rent (dē kur'ant) *adj.* [L *decurrans*, pp. of *decurrere* < *de-*, down + *currere*, to run; see *CURRENT*] *Bot.* extending down along the stem, as the base of some leaves

de-curved (dē kurvd') *adj.* [transl. of LL *decurvatus* < L *de-*, DE- + *curvatus*, pp. of *curvare*, to CURVE] *Zool.* curved or bent downward

de-cus-sate (dē kus'at, dek'ə sāt; for *adj.*, usually di kus'it) *vt.*, *vi.* -sated, -sating [< L *decussatus*, pp. of *decussare*, to cross in the form of an X < *decussis*, the figure ten (X) < *decem*, TEN] to cross or cut so as to form an X; intersect —*adj.* 1 forming an X; decussated 2 *Bot.* arranged in pairs growing at right angles to those above and below; said of leaves or branches —*de-cus-sately adv.*

de-cus-sa-tion (dēkə sá'shan, dek'a-) *n.* [L *decussatio*] 1 a decussating or being decussated 2 an intersection forming an X 3 *Anat.* a crossing of bands of nerve fibers in the brain or spinal cord

de-dans (dē dān'; Fr. -dān') *n.*, *pl.* *de-dans'* (-dānz'; Fr. -dānz') [Fr. lit. the interior < OFr *dedenz* < *de-*, from + LL *deintus*, from within < L *de-*, from + *intus*, within < IE **entós*, within < base **en-*, IN] *Court Tennis* 1 a gallery for spectators in the end wall of a court 2 the spectators at a match in court tennis

dedi-cate (ded'i kīt; for *v.*, -kāt') *adj.* [ME *dedicat* < L *dedicatus*, pp. of *dedicare*, to consecrate, declare < *de-*, intens. + *dicare*, to proclaim < *dicere*, to say; see *DICTION*] [Archaic] dedicated —*vt.* -cated, -cating [ME *dedicaten* < the *adj.*] 1 to set apart for worship of a deity or devote to a sacred purpose 2 to set apart seriously for a special purpose; devote to some work, duty, etc. (she dedicated her life to serving the poor) 3 to address or inscribe (a book, artistic performance, etc.) to someone or something as a sign of honor or affection *4 to open formally (a public building, fair, etc.) 5 *Law* to devote to public use —*SYN.* DEVOTE —*dedi-ca-tor n.*

dedi-cated (ded'i kāt'ad) *vt.* pp. of *DEDICATE* —*adj.* 1 devoted or faithful 2 *Comput.* designating a piece of equipment, a program, etc. that is deliberately restricted to a particular use or task

dedi-ca-tion (ded'i ká'shan) *n.* [ME *dedicacioun* < L *dedicatio*] 1 a dedicating or being dedicated 2 an inscription, as in a book, dedicating it to a person, cause, etc. 3 wholehearted devotion

dedi-ca-to-ry (ded'i kə tōrē) *adj.* of or as a dedication Also *dedi-ca-tive* (-kāt'iv, -ka tiv)

de-dif-fer-en-ti-a-tion (dē difər en'shē ā'shan) *n.* a reversal of cell development, esp. in plants, so that the differentiation that had occurred previously is lost and the cell becomes more generalized in structure

de-duce (dē dōos', -dyōos', di-) *vt.* -duced', -duc'ing [ME *deducen* < L *deducere*, to lead down, bring away < *de-*, down + *ducere*, to lead; see *DUCT*] 1 to trace the course or derivation of 2 to infer by logical reasoning; reason out or conclude from known facts or general principles —*SYN.* INFER —*de-duc'ible adj.*

de-duct (dē duk't, di-) *vt.* [ME *deducten* < L *deductus*, pp. of *deducere*; see *prec.*] to take away or subtract (a quantity)

de-duct-ible (-ə bəl) *adj.* 1 that can be deducted 2 that is allowed as a deduction in computing income tax (*deductible expenses*) —*n.* 1 a clause in an insurance policy stating that the insurer will pay that portion of a loss, damage, etc. remaining after a stipulated amount, to be paid by the insured party, is deducted 2 the amount stipulated —*de-ducti-bil'ity n.*

de-duc-tion (dē duk'shan, di-) *n.* [ME *deduccioun* < L *deductio*] 1 a deducting or being deducted; subtraction 2 a sum or amount deducted or allowed to be deducted 3 *Logic* the act or process of deducting; reasoning from the general to the specific, or from premises to a logically valid conclusion; also, a conclusion reached by such reasoning; distinguished from *INDUCTION* —*de-duc'tive adj.* —*de-duc'tively adv.*

Dee (dē) 1 river in NE Scotland, flowing east into the North Sea: 90 mi. (145 km) 2 river in N Wales and W England, flowing northeast into the Irish Sea: 70 mi. (113 km)

deed (dēd) *n.* [ME *dede* < OE *ded*, *dæd*, akin to Ger *tat*, ODu *dede*, ON *dath*, Goth *deda*; for IE base see *DO*] 1 a thing done; act 2 a feat of courage, skill, etc. 3 action; actual performance (honest in word and deed) 4 *Law* a document under seal which, when delivered, transfers a present interest in property —*vt.* to transfer (property) by such a document —*in deed* in fact; really

***deem-jay** (dē'jā) *n.* [D(ISC) J(OCKEY)] [Colloq.] DISC JOCKEY

deem (dēm) *vt.*, *vi.* [ME *deman* < OE *deman*, to judge, decree < base of *dom*, *DOOM*] to think, believe, or judge

de-emphasize (dē em'fə siz') *vt.* -sized', -siz'ing to remove emphasis from; lessen the importance or prominence of —*de-em-phasis (-sis) n.*

deep (dēp) *adj.* [ME *dep* < OE *deop*, akin to Ger *tief*, Goth *diups* < IE base **dheub-*, deep, hollow > DIP, DUMP] 1 extending far downward from the top or top edges, inward from the surface, or backward from the front (a deep cut, a deep lake, a deep drawer) 2 extending down, inward, etc. a specified length or distance (water



DECUSSATE
LEAVES OF
COLEUS

eight feet deep) 3 a) located far down or back (a deep in the outfield/ b) coming from (a deep breath) 4 far off in time or space (he deep past) 5 hard to understand; abstruse (a deep book) 6 extremely grave or serious (in deep trouble) 7 strongly felt (deep love) 8 intellectually profound (a deep discussion) 9 a) tricky and sly; devious (deep dealings) b) carefully guarded (a deep secret) 10 dark and rich (a deep red) 11 sunk in or absorbed by; with in (deep in thought) 12 a) great in degree; intense (deep joy) b) heavy and unbroken (a deep sleep) 13 much involved (deep in debt) 14 of low pitch or range (a deep voice) 15 large; big (deep cuts in the budget) —*n.* [ME *dep* < OE *deop*] 1 a deep place or any of the deepest parts, as in water or earth 2 the extent of encompassing space or time, of the unknown, etc. 3 the middle part; part that is darkest, most silent, etc. (in the deep of night) 4 *Naut.* any of the unmarked fathom points between those marked on a lead line —*adv.* [ME *depe* < OE *deope*] in a deep way or to a deep extent; far down, far in, far back, etc. (to dig deep) —*SYN.* BROAD —*go off the deep end* 1 [Colloq.] to plunge rashly into an enterprise 2 to become angry or excited —*in deep water* in trouble or difficulty —*the deep* [Old Poet.] the sea or ocean —*deeply adv.* —*deep'ness n.*

deep-chested (-ches'tid) *adj.* having, or coming as from, a thick chest (a deep-chested roar)

***deep-dish pie** (-dish') a pie, usually of fruit, baked in a deep dish and having only a top crust

deep-dyed (-did') *adj.* 1 stained throughout 2 thoroughgoing; unmitigated (a deep-dyed villain)

deepen (dē'pən) *vt.*, *vi.* to make or become deep or deeper

***Deep-freeze** (dēp'frēz') [< DEEP + FREEZE] trademark for a deep freezer —*n.* [d-] 1 a deep freezer 2 storage in or as in a deep freezer 3 a condition of suspended activity, dealings, etc. —*vt.* -froze', -frozen, -freezing [d-] 1 to subject (foods) to sudden freezing so as to preserve and store 2 to store in a deep freezer

***deep freezer** any freezer for quick-freezing and storing food

deep-fry (-fri') *vt.* -fried', -frying to fry in a deep pan of boiling fat or oil

deep-laid (-lād') *adj.* carefully worked out and kept secret (deep-laid plans)

deep-rooted (-root'id, -rōot'id) *adj.* 1 having deep roots 2 firmly fixed; hard to remove (deep-rooted bias)

deep scattering layer any of the stratified zones in the ocean which reflect sound during echo sounding, usually composed of marine organisms which migrate vertically from c. 250 to 800 m (c. 820 to 2,625 ft.)

deep-sea (-sē) *adj.* in or of the deeper parts of the sea (deep-sea fishing)

deep-seated (-set'id) *adj.* 1 placed or originating far beneath the surface 2 DEEP-ROOTED (sense 2)

deep-set (-set') *adj.* 1 deeply set 2 firmly fixed

deep-six (-siks') *n.* [from the custom of burial at sea in at least six fathoms] [Slang] 1 orig., burial at sea 2 a discarding or disposing of something —*vt.* [Slang] to get rid of, as by throwing overboard

***deep South** that area of the U.S. regarded as most typically Southern and conservative, especially the southernmost parts of Ga., Ala., Miss., and La.

deep space OUTER SPACE

***deep structure** in transformational grammar, the abstract syntactic pattern underlying the construction in the surface structure of a sentence

deer (dir) *n.*, *pl.* *deer* or *deers* [ME *der* < OE *deor*, wild animal, akin to Ger *tier*, ON *dýr* < IE base **dheueus*, **dheus-*, to stir up, blow, breathe (> DUSK, DOZE, FURY); for sense development cf. ANIMAL] 1 any of a family (Cervidae) of ruminants, including the elk, moose, and reindeer; esp., the smaller species, as the white-tailed deer and mule deer; in most species, usually only the males grow and shed bony antlers annually 2 [Obs.] any animal; beast

***deer-fly** (dir'flī) *n.*, *pl.* -flies any of certain bloodsucking, dipterous flies, esp. any of a genus (*Chrysops*) of the same family (Tabanidae) as horseflies

deerhound (-hound') *n.* SCOTTISH DEERHOUND

***deer mouse** a mostly North American, white-footed mouse (genus *Peromyscus*)

deer-skin (dir'skin') *n.* 1 the hide of a deer 2 leather or a garment made from this —*adj.* made of deerskin

deer-stalker (-stōk'ər) *n.* 1 a hunter who stalks deer 2 a hunter's cap with a visor in front and in back

***de-es-cal-late** (dē es'kə lāt') *vi.*, *vt.* -lat'ed, -lat'ing to reverse the effect of escalation on (something); reduce or lessen in scope, magnitude, etc. —*de-es-cal-a'tion n.*

def 1 defendant 2 defense 3 defensive 4 deferred 5 defined 6 definition

de-face (dē fās', di-) *vt.* -faced', -fac'ing [ME *defacen* < OFr *desfacier*; see *DE-* & *FACE*] 1 to spoil the appearance of; disfigure; mar 2 to make illegible by injuring the surface of —*de-face'ment n.* —*de-fac'er n.*

de-facto (dē fak'tō, da-, də-) [L] existing or being such in actual fact though not by legal establishment, official recognition, etc. (a de facto government); cf. *DE JURE*

de-fal-cate (dē fal'kāt', -fōl', di-) *vi.* -cat'ed, -cat'ing [< ML *defalcatus*, pp. of *defalcare*, to cut off; see *DE-* & *FALCATE*] to steal or misuse funds entrusted to one's care; embezzle —*de-fal-ca'tor n.*

de-fal-ca-tion (dē fal'kā'shan, -fōl-) *n.* [ML *defalcatio*; see *prec.*] 1 embezzlement 2 the amount embezzled

defa-ma-tion (dēfə mās'shan) *n.* [ME *defamacioun* < OFr *difamacion* < LL *diffamatio*] a defaming or being defamed; detraction, slander, or libel